Serial No.: 10/088,277 Attorney Docket No.: 20496/323

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Examiner: John S. Goetz
Group Art Unit: 3725

Application of	:	Bernd BERGER, et al.
Serial No.	:	10/088,277
Filing Date	:	June 19, 2002
Entitled	:	ROLL STAND

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment-
Commissioner for Patents
P.0. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Margaret C. Benzing
Name of person signing the certification

Signature **December 24, 2003** Date

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 11, 2003, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

21. (New) A roll stand comprising:

(a) a pair of work rolls for rolling a metal strip;

(b) back up rolls allocated to and providing lateral support for the work rolls;

(c) support beams each of which supports one of the back up rolls;

(d) a plurality of force generation devices arranged along said back up rolls, said force generation devices acting on said support beams, each of said force generation devices being individually adjustable in such way as to provide an adjustable whipping of its respective back up roll or work roll via its support beam;

(e) a chock with support or intermediate rolls, said chock being slidable into and out of the roll stand along a longitudinal direction of said chock, each support or intermediate roll being associated with and supporting one of said work rolls along a direction which is essentially perpendicular to a movement direction of a metal strip passing through the roll stand;

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(f) said force generation device positioning said back up rolls from an idle position in which said back up rolls are located outside a region where the chock moves during slide-in or withdrawal, to an operating position in which the back up rolls press against the work rolls.

22. (New) The roll stand according to claim 21, wherein the force generation devices are hydraulically or pneumatically operable actuating cylinders.

23. (New) The roll stand according to claim 21, wherein the force generation devices are mechanically adjustable spindles.

24. (New) The roll stand according to claim 21, further comprising a bearing arrangement in which the back-up rolls are supported, at least in certain sections along their longitudinal extensions, by the support beam.

25. (New) The roll stand according to claim 24, wherein the bearing arrangement comprises at least one hydrostatic bearing.

26. (New) The roll stand according to claim 24, wherein the bearing arrangement comprises roller bearings which are arranged so as to be regularly spaced apart along the back-up rolls.

27. (New) The roll stand according to claim 21, wherein the support beams comprise first and second detachably interconnected components aligned in a longitudinal direction of the back-up rolls, the first component bearing against the back-up roll and the second component being coupled to the force generation device associated with the back-up rolls.

28. (New) The roll stand according to claim 27, wherein the first component is connected to the second component of the support beam so as to be slidable along a longitudinal direction of said first component.